

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to reflect upon the events of 25 years ago and to remember the tremendous sacrifice a generation of veterans and their families made for our country at that time.

58,256 names are engraved on the black granite walls of the Vietnam Memorial Wall here in Washington, DC to honor America's war dead of a generation ago. The stories of these individuals and their families make our hearts ache today and will never be forgotten.

Jo-Ann Moriarty, a reporter from The Republican newspaper in Springfield, MA, compiled a series of stories this Memorial Day about Vietnam veterans from Western Massachusetts that touches upon their experience while serving our country. Their stories are remarkably similar to those being told by the brave men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan today. Sharing this history is critically important so that we never forget the serious impact of war.

I would like to submit the first two pieces of Jo-Ann Moriarty's series into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today for others to enjoy, and to thank veterans from Massachusetts and across America for their service to our country.

[From the Republican, May 27, 2007]
RAW EMOTIONS SURFACE AT VIETNAM
MEMORIAL

(By Jo-Ann Moriarty)

At each end of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, the black granite rises only 8 inches above the earth—ankle high.

But, with each step forward, visitors find themselves sinking deeper and deeper into a well of names—tens of thousands of names of America's young men—engraved on a stone wall that, at its center, towers 10 feet.

For many veterans of the Vietnam War, it feels as if they are descending into an abyss. It can be suffocating.

All those names etched into the wall take one's breath away. They find themselves drowning in memories and images of buddies and brothers they loved and lost.

Marine Corps Capt. Daniel M. Walsh III, now the director of veteran affairs for the city of Springfield, had his sergeant, Leonard A. Hultquist, die in his arms during combat just moments before he, himself, was struck by a bullet.

Under fire, Army Cpl. Heriberto Flores, who is today the head of the New England Farm Workers Council in Springfield, was a door gunner aboard a UH-1 Huey helicopter when he saw his friend from Springfield, Army Spc. Paul E. Bonnette, hit by enemy fire. He was 21.

This marks the 25th anniversary year of "the wall," a long, thin line of black granite that stretches 246.9 feet along the National

Mall. Nestled into the landscape below the lofty monuments that honor George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, it is the nation's memorial to its war dead in Vietnam.

It was designed by Maya Lin, an Asian-American, at the age of 21 while she was still an undergraduate at Yale University.

It bears 58,256 names.

It took a decade after its building before Walsh, Flores or Springfield attorney Frederick A. Hurst could make their visits. Hurst's youngest brother, Army Spc. Ronald C. Hurst, was killed April 12, 1967, when the Jeep he was driving struck a landmine in Vietnam.

"It was emotional," said Flores, who ultimately first visited the monument with his wife, Grace.

Hurst stenciled his brother's name during his visit. "It was tough," he recalled recently.

Walsh only went because he was engineered there by three of his young sons, one of whom became a Marine and all of whom wanted to know their father's history.

"I never had any intention of going to see it," Walsh said. "We lost a lot of people. A lot of people were hurt. A lot of bad things happened."

The wall holds the names of guys with whom Walsh shared foxholes and who were friends from Holy Name School—like Army Sgt. Walter "Buddy" J. Fitzpatrick, of Springfield, killed in combat in South Vietnam on March 3, 1967, and Army Lt. Bernard J. Lovett Jr., also of Springfield, whose tour of duty in Vietnam began on July 22, 1970 and ended when he was killed in action on Oct. 16, 1970 in Hua Nghia.

Walsh knew and admired another Springfield friend, Marine Capt. Ralph E. Hines, who was killed in combat on Feb. 19, 1967. He was 28.

Oddly, when Walsh finally made it to the wall, he found the unexpected.

"It was peaceful," Walsh said. "The memories kept flowing back, a lot were good, with the troops."

In Vietnam, Flores saw duty aboard Huey helicopters, dropping infantrymen in the field in the morning and collecting them in the afternoon. He would notice fresh faces among the troops and pray they would make it back on the helicopter by the end of the day. Some were waiting in body bags.

To Flores, the wall is validation.

"I think it is closing the circle," Flores said. "Certain lessons we've learned. The nation has honored us. For so many years, we were losers. And now, people realize we were soldiers."

Those soldiers were in a no-win situation as Vietnam devolved into a civil war where the enemy and the innocent were hard to distinguish. Army infantrymen and Marines snaked through the jungles, going from hill-top to hilltop, moving constantly while the Navy patrolled seemingly endless rivers and the Air Force and Army flight crews performed missions from above. Vietnam was a place of guerilla warfare and underground tunnels, where everyone—man, woman or child—could be the enemy, or not.

There was the My Lai massacre, in which American soldiers killed hundreds of innocents, and back home anti-war protestors chanted outside of President Lyndon B. Johnson's White House, "Hey, hey LBJ, how many kids did you kill today."

"Anyone there was a loser," said Westfield native Benjamin Sadowski Jr., the son of a survivor of the famed World War II Battle of the Bulge, who survived his own combat tour in Vietnam.

Up north in the tiny Franklin County town of Shelburne Falls, which had a population of about 2,600 at the time, families grieved the loss of four of their sons in Vietnam.

Altogether, from the four counties of Western Massachusetts, the Vietnam War claimed 200 casualties, 50 in the city of Springfield alone.

"Two of my best buddies, plus my brother," said John E. "Jack" Palmeri, whose brother James E. "Jimmy" Palmeri died 11 days after being hit by mortar fire on Feb. 26, 1967. He was 20.

Jack Palmeri, who enlisted in the Army and was sent to Germany, had advised his younger brother to do the same. "But Jimmy said, 'I can't stand the military for three years. I'll take my chances.'"

While others shed their uniforms when returning home from services, Jack Palmeri wore his home in honor of his brother and his friends, Army Spc. Ronald E. Wissman, killed at age 20 in action on May 21, 1967, and Marine Capt. Paul T. Looney, a helicopter pilot shot down on May 10, 1967.

For those who returned home, he said, "We were not welcomed. The country was divided and Vietnam divided it."

In those days, there was sometimes no distinction between the hatred of the Vietnam War and the U.S. troops who fought there.

The nation was torn apart by race riots. Anti-war protesting students were caught up in the homefront violence seen in the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy in 1968.

Kennedy, running a presidential campaign on the promise of getting out of Vietnam, was shot dead in June. Months after his killing, the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago was engulfed in violence in the streets—the Chicago cops beating the long-haired protesters who had gathered to demonstrate against the war in Vietnam.

There were the killings of four students at Kent State University as they protested the U.S. invasion of Cambodia in 1970, shot dead by Ohio National Guardsmen.

There was Vietnam veteran and future U.S. senator John F. Kerry in 1971 in combat fatigues testifying against the war before the Senate Foreign Relations committee.

And, the U.S. troops, fighting in a divided country half-way round the world, wound up returning home to another divided country.

It was a time of tumult and change, verging, at times on chaos.

Rock star Jimi Hendrix sang to the rage, pain, passion and confusion of the nation's youth: "Purple haze all in my brain. Lately things just don't seem the same."

In Vietnam, New York banker Henry "Hank" Trickey was a sergeant in "Alpha" Company of the Army's 101st Airborne Division and was steps behind Springfield native Spc. Peter F. Nolan when Nolan was hit by ambush fire, dead on May 8, 1970, at the age of 21.

"There was no front line," Trickey recalled recently. "Constant movement. You never knew what was in front of you. You never knew if you would make it through the day."

Flores flew infantrymen in and out of battle zones every day. Sometimes the drop was

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

bad—sending the soldiers off to a set-up by the enemy. Sometimes, the helicopters were under intense fire, and one would go down or an American B-52 bomber would appear and drop napalm.

"It was organized insanity," Flores said. "People you are defending are shooting at you."

A lot of the guys, like Flores, were high school drop-outs. But blacks, whites and Latinos discovered among the rag-tag, chain-smoking, beer-drinking fearless ranks a brotherhood free from racism and filled with pure faith, courage and valor.

"When we see each other, we say, 'I love you, brother,' and we really mean that," Flores said. "I was proud to be there. We did not choose the war; they sent us."

The wall which memorializes the dead from a war that once divided the nation has become a source of comfort, a place for mending.

"It is a healing thing," Palmeri said.

Hurst, who views his brother's death as a waste of a life that had so much promise, said he has found a peace at the monument.

"My personal comfort came from the reaction the country had to the wall," Hurst said. "The wall brought a resolution to the whole Vietnam thing."

Oklahoma resident Tommy Kellogg was steps behind Springfield teenager Army Pfc. James A. Messer when Messer was caught in an ambush.

Messer, 18, a parachuter, had been recently recruited from B Company of the 1st 327 Infantry Battalion of the 101st Airborne to join Tiger Force. It was a fierce band of 45 soldiers on a new assignment with loose orders concerning search and destroy missions in the jungle.

Kellogg has not seen the wall. Nor has Hank Trickey.

James Austreng, of Wisconsin, also hasn't been able to make a visit to the wall. Yet, after all these years, he still holds the memory of a 21-year-old from Westfield, James D. Zebert.

It was Zebert who provided cover for his squad—including Austreng—only to be shot dead minutes later in Tay Ninh, South Vietnam, on June 27, 1979. His tour had begun just 18 days earlier.

The Army private who served under Capt. Steven J. Popkin, of Springfield, still can visualize the Mohawk helicopter pilot wearing his hat slightly askew.

"Capt. Popkin was one of the nicest guys all around. He was a damn fine aviator," said Bruce Gaylord, who grew up in Michigan. "He didn't lord his rank over anyone. He would never make a joke about someone else. He had a rich sense of humor and a wonderful laugh."

"He was a good officer, the kind of guy you would follow into hell," Gaylord said.

But not to the nation's capital.

"I could never bring myself to it," Gaylord said.

[From the Republican, May 28, 2007]

VIETNAM GREEN BERET MADE CHICOPEE
PROUD

(By Jo-Ann Moriarty)

What can you say about a 24-year-old man whose name is among 58,256 on the Vietnam War Memorial?

That he was the platoon leader in Bravo Company.

That every day he assigned someone from the squad to watch over "Mouse."

That he and his grunts, strapped with M-16s, trailed a jungle maze for weeks and fought for their lives as the young lieutenant tried to pick their battles.

Mark C. Rivest, of Chicopee, was an officer and gentleman.

He was one of the famed "Green Berets" in the Army's Special Forces, and he completed

two tours in Vietnam as the leader of a platoon which, for the most part, was composed of draftees, many of whom were high-school dropouts.

A couple of guys in the band of 30 men should probably have never been in the Army, let alone assigned into the deadly terrain around Hue, a battle-scarred city just below the North Vietnam border.

"He is a very hard person to forget," recalled Manhattan businessman Anthony Loiero, who turned 21 in Vietnam and served under Rivest between 1969 and 1970.

"One of the things I remember the most about him was that he tried to keep us out of trouble," Loiero said. And, when they went in for the fight, "he would make sure that we were all protected. He was concerned about the guys he was responsible for. The jobs we were doing, he wanted to make sure we were there to do them the next day."

The year before Rivest and most of his men arrived in country, the Tet Offensive in 1968 ramped up the carnage and particularly bloody was the battle for Hue.

When Communist forces seized the city, they held the city for 25 days "committing ghastly atrocities during the initial phase of their occupation," wrote Stanley Karnow in his Pulitzer Prize-winning book: "Vietnam. A History."

Back home, America was violent, too. Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. were assassinated within months of each other. America was at war with itself. That summer, anti-war protesters were beaten by Chicago police as they stormed the Democratic Convention.

By 1969, when Rivest, who left behind his parents, Paul and Catherine, two brothers and a sister in the Aldenville section of Chicopee, and Loiero, an only child, who grew up in the Italian enclave of West New York, N.J., where he still lives, got to Vietnam, the death toll of American soldiers and civilians—both in the North and South—was staggering.

Before they met, Rivest had completed a six-month tour as platoon leader and, instead of alternating to the rear, "he transferred into the field again at his request," Loiero said.

Rivest earned the confidence of the soldiers in his new platoon almost immediately. Even-tempered, without bluster, he was approachable and ruled by a shot from his dark eyes.

He was college educated. He smoked Chesterfields, played the piano and had something about him that Loiero still associates with Louis Armstrong's song, "What a Wonderful World."

It took Loiero 13 years before he went to "the wall" in Washington, D.C., to take in the full measure of the Vietnam War's toll and tragedy, his delay mostly attributable to seeing the actual engraving of his platoon leader's name.

Now, middle-aged, Rivest's covenant to keep the men in his platoon safe with his good judgment and keen skills is even more precious to Loiero who came home, got a college degree, has a successful graphic arts business and is happily married with two children.

"We were a rag-tag bunch of good guys living every day hoping that every one of us would live to go home that day," Loiero said, adding that he still thinks "about the way he treated us. How he protected us. How his main objective was to watch his gaggle of geese and to make sure we did the right thing."

"If we were in harm's way, he would be the first one out there clearing the path," he added.

Rivest made his platoon a band of brothers. And, he did it in many ways, Loiero said.

There were, for instance, specific orders that someone in the squad watch over a guy nicknamed "Mouse," and a couple of other grunts, who Loiero said, "should never have been in the Army. Should never have been sent to Vietnam. And never should have been in the infantry with the rest of us."

Rivest instilled a discipline for constant movement.

The checklist was drilled into his men: Rifles cleaned. Gear together. Who's got the gun flares. Teeth brushed. Boots tied up. Who's watching "Mouse" today? Who's sleeping first.

"Then you'd start all over," Loiero said. "You make a commitment to the guys next to you and they make it to you. It is a brotherhood."

After their tour ended, Loiero went home. And Rivest, from what Loiero has been able to piece together, returned to Special Forces duty. The next assignment he accepted took him into Laos where he was killed in ground combat on June 4, 1970.

These days, Palmer resident Josh R. Morin, who once lived across from the Rivest home on McKinstry Avenue in Chicopee, carries the green beret of his boyhood friend to schools in Western Massachusetts as he talks to students about U.S. history and the Vietnam War.

As boys, they played Army together with their younger brothers.

Morin had been to Vietnam and back before Rivest went, and he warned his buddy against going because the terrain had gotten so dangerous. Morin's combat buddy had been shot dead inches from him.

When Rivest was killed, Morin, married at the time but living on the same street, said he couldn't go to the funeral.

"I couldn't go to his funeral and face his mother and father, the idea that I made it and he hadn't. I couldn't deal with it and now I regret that," Morin said. "I never saw them again."

Someone in the family later entrusted Morin with Rivest's green beret and his medals.

AUTHORIZING USE OF ROTUNDA TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DR. NORMAN E. BORLAUG

SPEECH OF

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my good friend and Colleague Mr. TOM LATHAM for his leadership on H. Con. Res. 164, which authorizes the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Norman Borlaug.

I am honored to know Dr. Borlaug. He is a great humanitarian who is credited with saving over a billion lives. No small task but for Dr. Borlaug it was all in a days work.

In 1944, Dr. Borlaug participated in Rockefeller Foundation's pioneering technical assistance program in Mexico. He was a research scientist and worked on high-yield and disease resistance cereal grains.

His work changed production agriculture, as we know it today. Dr. Borlaug is also credited with beginning the 'Green Revolution' in Mexico, Asia, and Latin America.

He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his groundbreaking work in world agriculture

and his work to end world hunger. Through this he envisioned a prize that would honor others who had made contributions to helping feed the world.

Dr. Borlaug's life is marked with accomplishments; one such accomplishment was founding the World Food Prize, which is now located in Des Moines, Iowa. The World Food Prize recognizes contributions by individuals who have worked to improve the quality, quantity and availability of the world food supply.

Dr. Borlaug is an amazing man and because of him billions of lives have been saved. The implications of his life's work will be felt for years to come. I again thank Mr. LATHAM for helping to ensure this true American hero is properly honored.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was on official leave of absence due to a health matter in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 483, 491, 497, and 498 and "no" on rollcall votes 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 492, 493, 494, 495, and 496.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Homeland Security Appropriations bill, and to congratulate Chairman PRICE on crafting an excellent bill. As the new Chairman of this subcommittee, Congressman PRICE worked hard to adequately fund programs that would enhance the security of all Americans while still maintaining a fiscally responsible budget. He has been a true champion and advocate for real and effective security for our Nation. This bill is a testament to the Chairman's leadership.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the subcommittee staff for their hard work and dedication both throughout the extended hearing process and in preparing the bill and committee report.

Chairman PRICE and our subcommittee based this bill on careful consideration of expert testimony given before our committee on the many serious security concerns facing our Nation. Over and over again we heard that another terrorist attack against our country was not a question of if, but of when.

This bill helps to address these concerns by giving long overdue and sorely needed additional financial support to agencies and programs with major responsibility to protect our country.

I would like to highlight several of these programs and their importance to our national security.

This Homeland Security bill strengthens port facilities and infrastructures that remain vulnerable to a terrorist attack by increasing badly needed funding for port security grants.

This is important, for example, because an attack on our Nation's largest container port complex at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach would negatively affect our entire national economy to the tune of \$1 billion a day.

Passage of this bill will also make available to our first responders increased Firefighter Assistance Grants and Safer Grants to purchase critical equipment and hire and train additional firefighters.

This will help address the outstanding issues that impair our first responders' ability to safely respond to a major disaster, as was identified by the events of September 11 and Hurricane Katrina.

The Homeland Security bill also makes border security a top priority by providing funds for 3,000 additional Border Patrol agents.

Finally, following the 9/11 Commission's recommendation to improve the explosive screening of checked baggage, this Homeland Security bill increases funding for the procurement, installation and maintenance of the latest explosive detection systems at our airports.

Experts agree that the cargo hold of the passenger airplanes is the "soft underbelly" of our aviation system.

Providing this equipment for our airports will help harden that potential target, which is critical to the safety of thousands of passengers who travel not only through the Los Angeles World Airports, but airports throughout our country.

Mr. Chairman, these are just a few of the key improvements this legislation makes to better protect our Nation. I strongly support the bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BILL DEARMAN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Bill Dearman of Alexandria, Virginia. Bill Dearman's retirement will mark the conclusion of 10 years of extraordinary and dedicated leadership and service to the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

Mr. Dearman's skilled leadership and devotion to Alexandria have led to a number of great accomplishments. Among these as the challenge of redeveloping the Samuel Madden Housing Project into what is now the nationally recognized award-winning Chatham Square. In addition he oversaw the development of various site replacements at Braddock Road, and the rehabilitation and refinancing of Jefferson Village, Quaker Hill and Cameron Valley projects.

Through his dedication to the Citizens of Alexandria, he helped ensure housing needed to Alexandria's neediest. His creativity led to effective reorganization of the authority and expansion of services to residents. Through is tireless efforts, Mr. Dearman has improved the general appearance and maintenance of all Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority properties.

In closing I wish to commend Mr. Dearman for his years of service to the City of Alexandria. I wish all the best to him on his retirement with his family in Atlanta.

INTRODUCTION OF BIRTHDAY RESOLUTION FOR WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with my friend and colleague from New York, Representative NITA LOWEY, I am introducing a resolution to recognize President Clinton's 61st birthday, which we will celebrate this August 19th. President Clinton has had a long and distinguished career in public service including serving as Governor of Arkansas and President of the United States. During Clinton's two terms in the White House, this country experienced unprecedented economic expansion including the creation of 22 million jobs. He worked with our NATO allies to end the ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, and played a fundamental role in bringing peace to Northern Ireland. Since leaving office in 2001, President Clinton has continued to dedicate his life to public service through the Clinton Foundation, which serves to strengthen the capacity of people throughout the world to meet the challenges of global interdependence. Notably, the Clinton Foundation has worked to make HIV/AIDS medication more accessible in poor and middle income countries and develop sustainable economic growth in Africa. Most recently, President Clinton launched the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) to help in the fight against global climate change.

I am honored today to recognize President Clinton's birthday as he has dedicated and continues to dedicate his life to serving the American people and noble causes around the world. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

NICS IMPROVEMENT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise to voice my strong support of H.R. 2640, the McCarthy-Dingell National Instant Criminal Background Check Improvement Act. It is high time Congress acted to strengthen the gun laws in this country and implement common sense policies to ensure that guns are not ending up in the wrong hands.

H.R. 2640 will strengthen the National Instant Background Check System (NICS) by creating incentives for states to submit legal records about individuals who are not eligible to purchase guns.

This bill also permits Federal law enforcement grants to be cut for states that do not submit such records to the electronic database and requires greater information-sharing among Federal agencies.

This legislation will make it easier for law enforcement authorities to coordinate and work together to make sure guns do not end up in the hands of criminals, the mentally ill, and non-citizens.

This bill will also create a more uniform system of background checks to help prevent the type of tragedy that occurred at Virginia Tech, where a documented mentally disturbed young man was able to buy guns and create devastation and destruction on a college campus.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this bill is an important first step in strengthening our Nation's gun laws and I support this legislation enthusiastically and without reservation.

I am also offering my own legislation, H.R. 2666, Blair's Bill, which will create a national gun registry and licensing procedure so we can finally begin to get a grip on the deadly issue of gun violence that has devastated so many of our communities across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this and other sensible gun control laws.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WARREN F.
WITZIG

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Warren F. Witzig, of State College, PA, who died on June 13, 2007. Dr. Witzig, who was born on March 26, 1921, was one of the pioneers of nuclear power. Indeed, the Penn State Nuclear Engineering Society recently honored him as a "visionary and innovator in the establishment of the United States nuclear power industry." The Penn State community, his friends and colleagues, and most importantly, his family, will miss him.

Dr. Witzig received a B.S. in electrical engineering in 1942, from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in Troy, NY; an M.S. in electrical engineering in 1944, from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Pittsburgh. From 1942 to 1960, Dr. Witzig was employed at the Westinghouse Research Laboratories and Bettis Plant in Pittsburgh, PA.

During World War II, he worked on the Manhattan District program on high vacuum systems, heat transfer, mass spectroscopy, and ionic centrifuge. He served as the first experimenter in the Materials Testing Reaction and later as engineering manager of in-pile tests for the naval reaction program in Hanford, Chalk River, and the MTR-ETR complex.

Dr. Witzig took the reactor of USS *Nautilus*, the world's first nuclear-powered ship, critical for the first time in 1954 while serving as senior engineer. He was integral in the development of nuclear submarines used by the U.S. Navy, developing engineering that was vital to the *Skipjack* and *George Washington* series of nuclear submarines, which have been the backbone of the U.S. nuclear navy.

After leaving government service, he traveled worldwide in his consulting practice, NUS Corp., which grew into one of the country's largest independent groups of nuclear consultants. He became professor and department head of Nuclear Engineering at the Pennsyl-

vania State University in 1967. While at Penn State, Dr. Witzig was responsible for one of the earliest student programs in nuclear engineering in the United States. He established the undergraduate and associate degree programs and initiated the continuing education Program on Radiation, Nuclear Safety and Environmental Effects for Public Education. Dr. Witzig conducted research in areas of reactor design and safety, fuel cycle, nuclear safeguards, rad-waste disposal, emergency planning and radiation monitoring.

Retiring from the university in 1986, he served on multiple public and private nuclear safety and oversight boards. Dr. Witzig chaired the Westinghouse GoCo Sites Nuclear Safety and Environmental Institute board of directors from 1988 to 1993. In 1979, Governor Richard Thornburgh called him into the service of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during the emergency shutdown of Three Mile Island II.

In June 1992, Witzig presented the paper, "The Value of a Nuclear Safety and Environmental Committee," at the Ukraine Academy of Science at Chelyabinski State University. He toured the site of the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Dr. Witzig had been a life-long advocate of nuclear energy as a clean, safe, and efficient source of energy and also for the training, accreditation, and oversight of nuclear operators.

Among Dr. Witzig's honors are Fellow, American Nuclear Society; Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Sigma Xi, Sigma Pi Sigma, and Eta Kappa Nu honor societies; Special Citation for an Engineering educator in Excellence in Engineering Education, EEI Power Engineering; Who's Who in Engineering and America; and Penn State's Outstanding Service Award for retirees.

He was also a leader in his community, serving Ferguson Township as a financial auditor and working 6 years on the Planning Commission, establishing the township's first comprehensive zoning ordinance. A member of the State College Presbyterian Church, Dr. Witzig was an ordained elder of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. He served on the Christian Education committee, and was a Sunday School teacher.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest sympathy to Dr. Witzig's family, especially his beloved wife Bernadette, his children Eric, Leah, Marc, and Lisa, his grandchildren Heather, Sean, Christie, Monica, Mallory, and Alicia, and his great grandchildren Madeline, Ava, and Miles. Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. Witzig for his contributions to nuclear engineering. His leadership and ingenuity have saved lives, developed new technology, and advanced our knowledge of nuclear science.

TRIBUTE TO GARY GOSS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Goss, owner of Structural Fiberglass in Bedford, PA, who has been named the 2007 Citizen of the Year by the Bedford Rotary Club. The Club annually recognizes a local individual who epitomizes the

Rotary Motto of "Service Above Self."

Gary has been a dedicated leader in the Bedford community, giving his time to various community organizations. He has served as president of the Bedford Rotary Club and the Bedford County Development Association and currently chairs the local Adopt-a-Highway organization, as well as the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Project. Gary has served as an assistant Scout Master for the Boy Scouts of America for 11 years, in addition to contributing to many other community organizations, nonprofits and his church. The Rotary International has previously recognized Gary as a Paul Harris Fellow.

While I could go on listing the countless organizations to which Gary has given his time and energy, it is reasonable to say that his contributions to the Bedford community are endless. There is no doubt that Gary has touched the lives of thousands, surely impacting each one of them in a tremendous and beneficial way. Gary serves as a role model for many, and it is my hope that those that have the opportunity to meet and work with Gary will take away some of his enthusiasm for bettering the community and the lives of those around him.

Gary's wife Peggy, to whom he has been married for 30 years, and his two children, Michael and Nicole, are certainly proud and honored by his remarkable work and devotion to improving the lives of others. The thousands of people who know Gary Goss—and who have benefited from his hard work and dedication—would join me in thanking Gary for his contributions to the Bedford community, as well as for serving as a great inspiration, demonstrating that selflessness and hard work go far in enhancing not only their own lives, but the lives of many.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
SUSAN TIEGER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Ms. Susan Tieger, of Arlington, Virginia. After thirty-five years of teaching in Arlington County Public Schools, Ms. Tieger will be retiring, leaving behind a legacy of dedication, care and hard work.

Ms. Tieger graduated with honors from Queens College in 1971. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education with the distinction of Cum Laude, she was awarded a fellowship in Special Education by the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and was awarded her Master of Education degree in June, 1972.

Ms. Tieger has taught in the Arlington County Public School system from September 1972 until the present. From 1972–1994, she taught multi-categorical self-contained classes consisting of students with learning disabilities, emotional disturbances and mental retardation at Francis Scott Key Elementary School. She has been the Special Education lead teacher at Barcroft Elementary School since 1994.

In June 2006, she earned the Educational Testing Service Recognition of Excellence for

her outstanding performance in the Praxis II test in which she achieved one of the highest possible scores.

During her thirty-five years with Arlington schools, Ms. Tieger has touched and improved the lives of hundreds of children and their parents. She was able to assist and teach children with a variety of learning disabilities, including those with mental retardation and emotional problems. In addition, Ms. Tieger was able to help countless children to read, write, socialize, and most important, to achieve their highest potential.

Susan Tieger is the epitome of a dedicated, caring and hard-working public school teacher. The fact that Arlington County has one of the best school systems in the country is directly attributable to the talents, hard work and dedication of teachers like Ms. Tieger.

I commend Ms. Tieger on her dedicated career in education, and wish her and her family health and happiness in her well-earned, much deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HER- ITAGE MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Caribbean American Heritage Month. The imprint of Caribbean-Americans on the foundation of the United States is indispensable. This June, we Americans have the opportunity to celebrate the history, accomplishments, culture and global influence of people of Caribbean descent past and present.

Caribbean-Americans have significantly contributed to the ethnic diversity that strengthens and enhances our stature in the international community. From the platform of St. Mark's Church in New York City to the halls of Congress, Caribbean-Americans such as Marcus Garvey and Congresswoman BARBARA LEE have effected the civil rights and federal legislation that serve as building blocks in American history.

Even in times of war, Caribbean-Americans support our efforts at home and abroad by serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Today, thousands of Caribbean-Americans are fighting to achieve stability in Iraq.

In a wide variety of fields, people of Caribbean descent have transformed the Nation we live in today. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H. Con. Res. 148, recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN F. KELLY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize Brigadier General John F. Kelly, United States Marine Corps. From August 2004 to June 2007, Brig-

adier General Kelly admirably served as the Legislative Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

During his time in this position, Brigadier General Kelly created numerous successes for the Marine Corps mission. His keen knowledge and experience in Congressional affairs, combined with an increased emphasis on Congressional relationships, propelled the Commandant's strategy and vision. His leadership has enabled the Marine Corps to make tremendous progress during a period of sustained high operational tempo and unprecedented interest in Marine Corps activities.

Brigadier General Kelly is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, the School for Advanced Warfare, and the National War College. He has served in numerous command and staff positions over his 31 years as an officer in the Marine Corps and is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I wish Brigadier General Kelly and his family the best as he continues his distinguished service to our Nation in his next assignment as the Deputy Commanding General of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. I am confident he will continue to exemplify the best that the Marine Corps has to offer and will superbly command our troops in the field.

NDEA

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, under the NDEA, when the Class I milk price in the Boston market falls below the established minimum price, processors would pay an over-order premium—the difference between the minimum price set by the applicable Regional Dairy Board and the Boston Class I price—into a national fund. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture would then distribute the monies in the fund back to the Boards according to a formula whereby each region would get back the greater of what they pay into the fund or the amount of the over-order payments a region would have generated if it had a Class I utilization rate of 50 percent. In the event of a shortfall, the Secretary would supplement the money in the fund from savings from the MILC program to ensure that the Regional Dairy Boards, and subsequently the dairy farmers themselves, would receive the full payments.

The Regional Dairy Boards would be comprised of three members from each participating state in a particular region. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture would make the nominations to the Boards after receiving nominees put forward by governors or elected state agricultural commissioner after consultation with the dairy industry. Each state delegation to the Regional Dairy Boards would consist of three representatives, with at least one producer and one consumer.

In addition to the responsibility to establish minimum prices and distribute payments to dairy farmers, the Regional Dairy Boards would have the authority to conduct supply management programs when necessary, including the development of incentive-based programs. Moreover, in order to prevent over-production, regions in which the growth in milk

production is higher than the national average would be required to reimburse the U.S. Secretary of Treasury for the cost of government dairy surplus purchases up to the amount that the region is receiving under the NDEA.

It is important to note that the NDEA would not establish national pooling. Rather, it would create an equalization fund whereby processor paid funds would go to a central account at the U.S. Department of Agriculture; government funds would be added to that fund and then payments would be made to the various regions according to a formula, which would permit regions with low Class I utilization to receive the same benefit as those regions with higher utilization.

Also of significance, the NDEA would be entirely optional for the states and individual farmers. Thus, those states that do not wish to participate in the NDEA program could simply choose to continue to participate in the MILC program, which the NDEA would extend to 2012, and individual farmers in states participating in the new NDEA program could instead opt to merely continue receiving payments under their current MILC contract rather than under the NDEA. However, those individuals would not be eligible to extend their MILC contract beyond September 2008 and would lose all future eligibility to participate in the NDEA program.

Madam Speaker, the NDEA would create a market-orientated, counter-cyclical program to help all of our Nation's dairy farmers while simultaneously saving taxpayers money. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me to enact this important legislation.

HONORING BISHOP P.A. BROOKS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, Honoring Bishop Aquilla Brooks has served his community as a Local pastor for 50 years and as a jurisdictional bishop for more than 30 years; and

Whereas, Bishop Brooks, is a man of keen spiritual insight, integrity and has dedicated his life to serving the spiritual needs of the community; and

Whereas, Bishop P.A. Brooks, is a widely respected church and community Leader. Brooks has received numerous awards for his outstanding service to the community including the: FBI Outstanding Community Service Award. In 1979 the Michigan Chronicle recognized him as one of Detroit's outstanding men of the year; and

Whereas, Bishop Brooks, is the third-longest serving Church of God in Christ Bishop in the history of the State of Michigan. During his tenure he has implemented programs and initiatives that have benefited laity and clergy alike. Due to his influence the Church of God in Christ launched their first credit union in the State of Michigan in Fall 2004; and

Whereas, Bishop Brooks is a man of God standing firmly on the past, Established in the present, and important to the future of The Church of God in Christ. Therefore be it now

Resolved, That Bishop P.A. Brooks be commended on the occasion of the Inaugural Salute Banquet recognizing his elevation to the

office of Second Assistance Presiding Bishop at the Church of God in Christ Inc.

Madam Speaker, I rise to commend and congratulate Bishop Phillip Aquilla Brooks on the occasion of his appointment as Second Assisting Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ (C.O.G.I.C.).

The third-longest serving Bishop of the Church of God in Christ in the history of Michigan, Bishop Brooks has served his community as a local pastor for 50 years and as a jurisdictional bishop for more than 30 years.

During this time, he has undertaken a number of initiatives to further the church's mission and strengthen it as an institution. Bishop Brooks organized the first Regional Council of Bishops, which unites the 12 jurisdictions of Michigan and Canada and allows them to work together to develop programs that benefit the church. He instituted the First Interactive Ministerial Alliance Meetings, which allow local pastors to plan and implement their own agendas, including workshops, praise and worship, and resource sharing. Bishop Brooks is responsible for the purchase and renovation of Northeast Michigan's Jurisdictional Cathedral Center. He also helped establish the nation's first Blue Cross/Blue Shield program for local pastors and C.O.G.I.C.'s first Credit Union.

Bishop Brooks has rightly been described as a man of prayerful reflection, honest discussion, humility, and mutual respect for all who have known him. I take great pleasure in knowing that the members of his church as well as the citizens of Michigan have benefited greatly by his guidance. I am confident that Bishop Brooks will serve the Church of God in Christ with passion, love, and dedication in this new capacity.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bishop Brooks as he takes on this new role of leadership. Bishop Brooks is truly deserving of this high honor, as well as our respect and admiration.

S. 5, THE STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 5, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act and commend Congresswoman DIANA DEGETTE and Congressman MICHAEL CASTLE for their leadership on this important issue.

Today, once again, Congress responds to the priorities and needs of the American people, in bringing forward a bill to expand federally-funded embryonic stem cell research.

S. 5 is supported by 72 percent of the American public, including over 200 patient groups, universities, and scientific societies. It has also been endorsed by more than 75 national and local newspapers, and 80 Nobel Laureates.

This bipartisan legislation will provide hope and opportunity for millions of Americans suffering from chronic and life-threatening health conditions. I have voted to expand this critical research 4 times. It is time for the President to listen to the American people and the majority of Congress and to sign this bill into law.

Recent research has shown that scientists have been able to create pluripotent stem

cells from mouse skin cells. This is an exciting development, and should be pursued in conjunction with embryonic stem cell research. We should support and pursue all ethical, life-saving research.

The expansion of funding to stem cell research has the power to make a real difference in the lives of Americans. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 5.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MYROSLAVA GONGADZE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of Myroslava Gongadze of Arlington, Virginia and a proud member of our civil service. Ms. Gongadze serves as the leading spokesperson for American values in Ukraine, helping to move the nation in a more pro-western direction.

A native Ukrainian who was granted political asylum in the United States in 2001 and began working for Voice of America in 2004, Myroslava Gongadze is one of the most recognized journalists and human rights advocates in Europe. This episode during the 2004 elections is just one chapter in her long-running fight for justice in her homeland and across the globe.

For 17 days in November 2004, with temperatures below freezing in the central square in Kiev, Ukraine, a million people stood in a sea of orange color, protesting fraudulent presidential elections. Two huge screens flanked the makeshift stage hooked into Ukraine's only independent source of information, Channel5 TV. The broadcast they received was from the Voice of America's Washington studio, and the face they saw was Myroslava Gongadze. When Ms. Gongadze reported U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's statement that the United States refused to recognize the falsified election results, it was one of the watershed moments of Ukraine's "Orange Revolution," which resulted in the election and peaceful installation of Viktor Yushchenko as Ukraine's new President.

While her story is inspirational, the circumstances that drove Ms. Gongadze to become a political activist are tragic. Her husband Georgy Gongadze was a renowned investigative journalist who exposed corruption and cronyism in the administration of the former Ukrainian President. In 2000, he was murdered by government police. Since his death, she has made it her mission to promote freedom of speech, the rights of journalists and the need to bring corrupt officials to justice.

She has pursued her agenda by working with many different organizations, including the European Court for Human Rights, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Committee to Protect Journalists. She even created the Gongadze Foundation, a nongovernmental organization working to protect journalists' rights and political freedom. However, the organization that has given her the platform to make her biggest impact has been the Voice of America.

Madam Speaker, I commend Ms. Gongadze for her leadership, and I am proud to have her

live in Virginia's 8th Congressional District as she contributes to the greatest civil service in the world. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE REGARDING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, our Nation recently commemorated the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway. Let me take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of that battle and remember the Americans who lost their lives in the defense of a small island northwest of Hawaii.

Between June 4 and June 7, 1942, the United States Navy defeated a Japanese attack against the Midway Atoll in what has come to be called the Battle of Midway. The battle was a decisive victory for Americans and is widely regarded as the most important naval engagement of World War II and a critical turning point in the Pacific Theater.

During the battle, 307 Americans lost their lives. We remember the sacrifices made by those men. They gave their lives for the cause of freedom. Through their actions, the war was won and peace preserved. We will not soon forget them.

At this time, it is also important to pause to remember the contributions of the many thousands of American sailors who participated in the Battle of Midway and survived. They—like so many of their generation—were touched by the ravages of war and continue to wear their scars. We owe them a debt of gratitude we cannot soon repay except by remembering their struggle, honoring their sacrifice, and continuing to keep in our thoughts those Americans who maintain our Nation's tradition of military excellence by serving with valor and distinction today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL DAIRY EQUITY ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from New York, Mr. REYNOLDS, to introduce the National Dairy Equity Act of 2007 (NDEA), which is designed to establish a minimum price for fluid milk and create a market-based safety net for dairy farmers.

I greatly appreciate the men and women who work the extremely hard and long hours needed to produce milk, butter, cheese, ice cream, non-fat dry milk, and yogurt. Thus, I would like to begin by noting that June is Dairy Month. It is hard to overstate how important dairy is to the United States economy, nor for that matter, how important dairy is to the economies of New York and its 23rd Congressional District, which I represent. In fact, in 2006, New York was the Nation's third largest dairy state; it accounted for about 7 percent

(638,000 head) of the Nation's milk cows, 6.7 percent (12.04 billion pounds) of total milk production, and 6.9 percent (\$1.6 billion) of total cash receipts from milk marketing. The importance of dairy to New York's 23rd District is readily apparent when one considers that the 2002 Census of Agriculture reported there were 1,989 dairy farms with 188,305 milk cows in the 11 counties that comprise the District.

I also appreciate the fact that the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) has provided about \$230 million in much-needed support to New York dairy farmers over the past 5 fiscal years and I know my constituent farmers do as well. Moreover, it is critical that the 2007 Farm Bill continue to provide dairy farmers with some form of income support. While I appreciate the support provided through MILC, the NDEA is an alternative that could help to provide additional support to American farmers with greater stability and at less cost to the taxpayer.

The NDEA would establish 5 Regional Dairy Marketing Areas (RDMA); the Intermountain, Midwest, Northeast, Pacific, and Southern. The Midwest, Northeast, and Southern regions would automatically be included as participating regions while the Intermountain and Pacific regions would have the ability to opt into the program.

In each region, a Regional Dairy Board would establish the minimum or over-order price for Class I (fluid) milk; that price would then have to be approved by farmers through a referendum. In the first year, the maximum price that a Board could establish is capped at \$17.50 per hundredweight (cwt.), but thereafter the price could rise based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I took a leave of absence on June 18, 2007, as I was attending to personal business. The following list describes how I would have voted had I been in attendance today.

"Aye"—H. Con. Res. 21, calling on the United Nations Security Council to charge Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad with violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the United Nations Charter because of his calls for the destruction of the State of Israel.

"Aye"—H. Con. Res. 151, noting the disturbing pattern of killings of dozens of independent journalists in Russia over the last decade, and calling on Russian President Vladimir Putin to authorize cooperation with outside investigators in solving those murders.

"Aye"—H. Res. 233, recognizing over 200 years of sovereignty of the Principality of Liechtenstein, and expressing support for efforts by the United States to continue to strengthen its relationship with that country.

REMEMBERING MINNESOTA'S
"GREATEST GENERATION" AS
MINNESOTA COMMEMORATES
STATE WORLD WAR II MEMO-
RIAL

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise in tribute to the "Greatest Generation" of Minnesotans. On June 9, 2007, an estimated 12,000 Minnesotans gathered on the state capitol grounds to offer this long-overdue commemoration for our State's World War II veterans.

The Minnesota World War II Memorial has an honored place, reflecting the sacrifices of those who served and those who died to protect our freedom. It provides a solemn reminder of past great sacrifices on behalf of our nation, but also gives us an important opportunity to properly thank the brave men and women in uniform fighting every day around the world.

Six decades ago, 16 million fought for freedom in the war, and more than 400,000 died. Although fought "over there," World War II had immense local impact. Approximately 326,000 Minnesota men and women enlisted in the military, leaving school, jobs and families behind. Nearly 6000 Minnesotans died. The war touched every life in some way as countless more men, women and children supported the war from the home front.

On May 29, 2004, I had the great honor of joining many of Minnesota's World War II veterans and their families in Washington, DC for the dedication of the National World War II Memorial. These veterans exemplify the spirit and sacrifice of America's Greatest Generation. My father served in the Armed Services during World War II, so this dedication is especially meaningful to me. As an auxiliary member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, I remain committed to ensuring that all our veterans receive the benefits and honor that they have earned.

Madam Speaker, please join with me and all Minnesotans in paying tribute to the Greatest Generation. They deserve our highest respect, gratitude and the support they were promised.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF EDWARD MESSMER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of Edward Messmer of Alexandria, Virginia for his service to the U.S. Department of State as Special Assistant to the Ambassador of Lebanon. In his official duties he was directly responsible for his efforts in providing fuel reserves into Lebanon during the 2006 conflict, which kept major power plants open, averting a health catastrophe.

In July and August of 2006, the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut found itself at the center of a major conflict when war broke out between Hizbollah fighters and Israeli forces.

The embassy received a great deal of attention for its work to mitigate the damage inflicted by the war. None was more important than the work done by Mr. Messmer to help move vital fuel past blockades and into Lebanon, maintaining power across the country.

Once the war began, a naval blockade was established around Lebanon to prevent the import of weapons, fuel and other support for the citizens of Lebanon. As a result, fuel stocks quickly plummeted at the country's three primary power plants. The plants were soon left with only a few days' worth of reserves. A continued interruption would have meant no water for essential services, hospitals and schools. Serving as the acting chief of the political section at the embassy, Mr. Messmer made it his personal mission to avert the developing crisis.

Mr. Messmer had to address multiple logistical and political challenges to get fuel past the blockade. The ship owners who carried the fuel didn't want to risk running the naval blockade, the Israeli forces wanted assurances that the fuel stocks would not be diverted to Hizbollah. Additionally, funding for the fuel needed to be secured from the weakening government of Lebanon. For three straight weeks, Mr. Messmer coordinated, persuaded and guided all of these disparate parties to a solution. He was in constant contact with the Lebanese government, U.S. embassies in Cyprus and Israel, ship owners, insurers and various offices in the Pentagon and the State Department.

Mr. Messmer's efforts paid off with the initial shipment of 56,000 tons of fuel to the about-to-close power facility just north of Beirut. His hard work enabled the country's entire electrical grid to remain operational until additional deliveries were sent over the next several weeks. Not only did Mr. Messmer's work help avert a humanitarian crisis; it also took away a potential propaganda tool from Hizbollah, which could have blamed the fuel crisis on the United States and its allies. For his contribution, Mr. Messmer was nominated for the Partnership for Public Service's International Affairs Medal.

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Messmer for his leadership, and I am proud to have him live in Virginia's 8th Congressional District and contributing to the greatest civil service in the world. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BRIAN SHARP

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Major Brian P. Sharp will be leaving his position as Assistant Marine Corps Liaison to the House of Representatives and will be continuing his military education at the Command and Staff College in Quantico, Virginia.

Major Sharp has been a valuable asset to the Marines since his enlistment in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1991. He attended the School of Infantry, Camp Geiger, MCB Camp Lejeune where he received the MOS of 0341 mortar man. He was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines for 4 years and

was accepted into Officer's Candidate School in 1995. He has also received a B.A. in History from Ramapo College in New Jersey and was selected for Career Level School through which he attended United States Army Field Artillery School, Captain's Career Course in April of 2002.

Upon graduation from the Basic School, Major Sharp reported to the United States Army Field Artillery School and was designated a Field Artillery Officer. In his first tour, he reported to Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines and served as forward observer, Guns Platoon Commander, and Executive Officer. During this tour, he was deployed to Okinawa, Japan in support of the 31st MEU (SOC). Major Sharp has also served as S-3A/Battalion Fire Direction Officer following the completion of his tour at 2nd Battalion, Target Information Officer for the 15th MEU Command Element, MEU Liaison to the United Nations for conducting operations to stabilize the new nation of East Timor in the spring of 2000, and Fire Support Officer following September 11, in which he assisted in the planning and execution of the seizure of Forward Operation Base Rhino, Afghanistan, to include combat operations.

Upon his graduation from Career Level School, Major Sharp was assigned to Battery B, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment and served as Commanding Officer. While he served this position, Major Sharp and Battery B were deployed with Regimental Combat Team 2, Task Force Tarawa, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and participated in the Battle of An Nasiriyah. Upon his return to CONUS, Major Sharp assumed the duties of the Battalion Logistics Officer, and then Battalion Operations Officer.

Major Sharp's decorations include the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat "V" and two stars and the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Madam Speaker, I know that the Members of the House will join me in thanking and honoring Major Sharp for his exceptional commitment to the United States Marine Corps and wishing him luck in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING PROJECT TRANSITION

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Project Transition for 25 years of service and support to people suffering from mental illness. By providing the necessary care and assistance, Project Transition has paved the way for adults with psychiatric problems to recover and contribute to society.

Project Transition's unique communities offer not only medical treatment, but also diverse opportunities for healing of the mind, body and spirit. Throughout their stays, residents learn to rebuild hope and trust. Patients are exposed to treatment and instruction that cultivates the skills necessary to live a normal life as a member of our community.

The Project Transition team is made up of professionals with the right experience and know-how in psychiatric and psychological

treatment. They work to teach social skills, management of psychiatric conditions and help reintegrate patients back into the community. Their innovative approach has earned them both national acclaim and sincere gratitude from the many families they have helped.

Madam Speaker, this year Project Transition celebrates its 25th anniversary as an organization serving Bucks County adults with psychiatric disorders. Project Transition has earned the appreciation of the hundreds of adults now able to live a full and healthy life. I join them in thanking this wonderful organization for their efforts, commend them on their work and wish them a future of continued success.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL JOHN P. SWIFT ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CONNECTICUT AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel John P. Swift of Enfield, Connecticut, who retires from the Connecticut Air National Guard on Sunday, June 24, 2007, after nearly 26 years of service to our Nation.

Since graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in 1981, Colonel Swift has worked closely with the A-10 Thunderbolt II, as it is more commonly known, the "Warthog." His post-academy education and service took him to Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Louisiana and even the United Kingdom before he landed back in Connecticut. In 1989, he began his career with the Connecticut Air National Guard as the Operations Plan Officer for the 103rd Fighter Group at Bradley International Airport in East Granby, Connecticut.

From there, he worked his way through the ranks until reaching his current position as Commander of the 103rd Fighter Wing in February 2006. As Commander, Colonel Swift has lead more than 1000 men and women of the 103rd Fighter Wing and overseen all aspects of base operations, including aviation, maintenance and support operations for the Wing's A-10 aircraft. In his most recent roles, he has worked closely with his colleagues in the Connecticut National Guard and the Connecticut congressional delegation to help see the 103rd Fighter Wing through a period of change and transformation.

His leadership, his passion for his job and his dedication to the mission of the Connecticut Air National Guard will be greatly missed. I ask all my colleagues to join with me, the men and women of the Connecticut National Guard, and the people of Connecticut in thanking Colonel Swift for his service and wishing him the best in his new endeavors.

IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST ZACHARY GRASS

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, with great sorrow I rise today to recognize Specialist

Zachary Grass, an Ohio citizen from my district, who gave his life fighting for our country. On Saturday, June 16, 2007 in Iraq, Army soldier Zachary Grass was killed by a roadside bomb.

As a 2003 graduate of Fairless High School, he was a member of both the varsity basketball and baseball teams. From his athletic involvement in high school to becoming a soldier in the Army he showed great leadership. More importantly he was happy to be serving his country.

This outstanding young man showed courage and dedication during his tour of duty. Zachary is a true hero and reminds us of the dedication evidenced by all the men and women all over the world fighting the war on terror. We must reflect on this great life and the sacrifice he made to defend our freedom and security.

Zachary Grass and his family will be forever in our hearts and prayers. May we keep them in mind as they struggle through this difficult period of mourning.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH- MENT OF CAROL DUMAINE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of Ms. Carol Dumaine, of Reston, Virginia, and a proud member of our civil service. Ms. Dumaine, an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency, has contributed to our Nation's future security through the establishment of the Global Futures Forum (GFF), a highly innovative think tank which coordinates international expertise to enhance intelligence analysis.

As the 9/11 Commission confirmed, intelligence and law enforcement officials had uncovered a number of warning signs that a terrorist attack on U.S. soil was imminent, but the failure to recognize the links between the intelligence precluded authorities from stopping the attacks. Ms. Dumaine has created a forum which allows for more thorough intelligence analysis from a cadre of outside experts. Global Futures Forum (GFF) unites intelligence experts from different nations with professionals from diverse fields so that emerging issues can be recognized quickly and collectively addressed. The GFF reviews intelligence in the public domain and promotes open, interactive linkages to knowledge and insight that exists outside of traditional security organizations.

GFF delegates represent the wide spectrum of intelligence and security organizations, multilateral institutions, academia and non-government personnel from more than 30 nations. A series of forums in 2005 and 2006 brought these experts together to work face-to-face, providing them with an opportunity to strengthen international partnerships and to share knowledge about global security challenges. To ensure that partners would have opportunities to collaborate outside of the conferences, Ms. Dumaine created the GFF website to provide a constant means of collaboration, allowing GFF partners to share their latest thoughts, research and analysis through their

own interactive blogs or chats with other participants. Her work ensures that the dialogue fostered by the GFF never really ends.

Ms. Dumaine created a global community that increases exposure to diverse perspectives and catalyzes discussion on adapting intelligence organizations to address nontraditional challenges. These partnerships created through Ms. Dumaine's effort will help ensure that potential security threats will be handled properly, allowing for the best response possible. For her great contribution to the intelligence community, she has been selected as a finalist for the Partnership for Public Service's "National Security Medal".

Madam Speaker, I commend Ms. Dumaine for her leadership, and I am proud to have her live in Virginia's 8th Congressional District as she contributes to the greatest civil service in the world. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING 2007 BENTON CARDINALS BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Benton Cardinals boys' High School baseball team on defeating the Sullivan Knights, by a score of 2-0, to win the school's first ever baseball championship.

The Cardinals finished their championship season by posting an incredible record of 24-3 in Class 3 boys' baseball and an overall amazing record of 61-7 over the past three seasons.

The Cardinals consist of 21 tremendous young men, including Kyle Becerra, Tim Brown, Zack Colwell, Tom Contreras, Johnny Coy, Cory Eckert, Austin Garton, Colton Garton, Scott Hedden, Cody Kirschner, Jake Kretzer, Kyle Mason, Justin Mattice, Trevor Moss, Ryan Pinson, Marcus Pritchett, Eli Reynolds, Josh Reynolds, Craig Wilburn, Ryan Winger and Josh Zuptich.

Also, I want to recognize the great leadership of the team including Head Coach Mike Musser, who was assisted by Greg Reynolds, Stephen Thatcher, Justin McCarthy and Ray Brown. I also want to acknowledge the work of school administrators, Superintendent Melody Smith, Principals Jeanette Westfall and Jeff Modis, and Athletic Director Mike Ziesel, as additional keys to success.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the achievement of the Benton Cardinals boys' High School baseball team on their terrific season and state championship. It is an honor to represent this team in the United States Congress.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY TO MR. M. BLOUKE CARUS

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to Mr. M.

Blouke Carus of Peru, Illinois on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

A captain of industry, publisher, inventor, veteran, engineer, educator, linguist, preservationist and community servant, Mr. Carus is undoubtedly one of the most accomplished persons I have the privilege of representing in the Congress of the United States.

As Chairman of Carus Corporation, Mr. Carus oversees this privately held holding company which includes the Carus Chemical Company, the world leader in the fields of water treatment and air purification through the manufacturing and application of potassium permanganate and a variety of manganese compounds.

Mr. Carus is also Vice-Chairman of Carus Publishing Company which includes Open Court General Books and 14 children's magazines including such well-known publications as Cricket, Ladybug and Spider. This high quality children's literature has educated and entertained young people for more than three decades.

Mr. Carus has also demonstrated a lifelong interest in education. His educational achievements include the development of textbooks and teaching programs in the areas of reading, language arts and mathematics. By Presidential appointment, Mr. Carus has served as a member of the National Council on Education Research which established research policy for the United States Department of Education. He played an important role in establishing Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) by chairing the Citizens Committee which led the effort to create IVCC. Today, 40 years after its creation, IVCC enables thousands of students to obtain post-secondary educations in many fields while serving as a catalyst for economic development and greater employment throughout the Illinois Valley.

Mr. Carus has long been a champion of both enhanced school to work educational programs as well as the need for strong systems of educational accountability. He has pursued these critically important goals as chairman of the Education Committee of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association and as a member of the Illinois Governor's Task Force on School-to-Work Transition.

It gives me special pleasure to note the leadership role of Mr. Carus in restoring and reopening the historic Hotel Kaskaskia in downtown LaSalle, Illinois. The accomplishment of this goal will not only save a structure deemed to have national historic significance but will also spark the economic revitalization of the downtown business area of the City of LaSalle.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to seek out and highlight the contributions and achievements of the leading citizens of their own congressional districts across our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO ONCOLOGY NURSES

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role that oncology nurses play in providing quality cancer care. These nurses are principally involved in the administration and moni-

toring of chemotherapy and the associated side-effects patients experience. As anyone ever treated for cancer will tell you, oncology nurses are intelligent, well-trained, highly skilled, kind-hearted angels who provide quality clinical, psychosocial, and supportive care to patients and their families. In short, they are integral to our Nation's cancer care delivery system.

On behalf of the people with cancer and their families in Indiana's 7th Congressional District, I would like to specifically acknowledge Julie Painter from Indianapolis, Indiana, for her service on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors, as a Director-at-Large, and her role as a Clinical Nurse Specialist at the Community Health Network. Julie has served on the ONS Board of Directors for the past 3 years; and prior to that, she served as Congress Chairperson in 1996, the Nominating Committee in 1996-1999, and on the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation Nominating Committee in 2000-2002. She received her Master's degree and post-Master's Nurse Practitioner degree from Indiana University.

The Oncology Nursing Society has four chapters in my home state of Indiana, including one in my hometown of Indianapolis. These chapters serve the oncology nurses in the state and support them in their efforts to provide high-quality cancer care to patients and their families throughout Indiana. Julie has been a member of ONS for 20 years and has served as President, Vice President, Newsletter Editor, and more of the Central Indiana Chapter based in Indianapolis.

Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration, and education in the field of oncology. The Oncology Nursing Society is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world, with more than 35,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. I commend Julie and her organization for all that they do in the field of oncology.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted, and chronic disease, and people with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specialized in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. According to the American Cancer Society, one in three women and one in two men will receive a diagnosis of cancer at some point in their lives, and one out of every four deaths in the United States results from cancer. This year, approximately 30,040 people in Indiana will be diagnosed with cancer, and another 12,730 will lose their battles with this terrible disease. Every day, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

Today, more than two-thirds of cancer cases strike people over the age of 65, and the number of cancer cases diagnosed among senior citizens is projected to double by 2030. At the same time, many of the community-based cancer centers are facing significant barriers in hiring the specialized oncology nurses they need to treat cancer patients. We are on the verge of a major national nursing shortage, and it is estimated that there will be a shortage of 1,016,900 nurses in the year

2020. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) estimates that in 2005, the state of Indiana had a shortage of 5,295 nurses. HRSA estimates that number will reach 8,211 by 2010.

I would like to once again acknowledge and thank Julie Painter for her hard work and leadership on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors. As a nurse and leader in the field, Julie has made it her life's mission to help others, and she should be applauded for all she has done.

I commend the Oncology Nursing Society for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 32 years and thank the Society and its members for their ongoing commitment to improving and assuring access to quality cancer care for all cancer patients and their families. I would like to remind my colleagues that May is Oncology Nursing Month, and I urge my colleagues to support them in their important endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SERGEANT
ANDREW HIGGINS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Army SGT Andrew Higgins, a Hayward, California soldier who was killed on June 5, 2007, in Baqubah, during his second tour in Iraq as part of an elite Stryker Brigade. He was a member of the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Washington.

At a very young age, Sergeant Higgins wanted to join the military. During the summer between his junior and senior years at Kennedy High School in Fremont, he took Army basic training.

After graduating from high school, he spent 2 years in the Army Reserve, signed up for the regular Army, and was assigned several times to an Army Ranger unit as a fire support specialist. Sergeant Higgins was deployed to Afghanistan with the first contingent of troops sent to fight the Taliban.

While in the Army, he received awards and decorations including two Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Army Commendation Medal.

Sergeant Higgins came from a long line of early American settlers. The first descendant of his family landed in New England in 1693. He was next in line to carry on the family name, as he was the third generation of Higginses who were only sons.

Sergeant Higgins is remembered as a courageous soldier with a sharp wit and a kind heart. When he finished his military service, he had planned to go back to school and study fish and habitat conservation.

I join the community in expressing deepest sympathy to SGT Andrew Higgins' family members on his tragic death. Our country owes a debt of gratitude to Sergeant Higgins and his family for the ultimate sacrifice he made in service to his country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 485 to H. Amdt. 294, I was recorded as a "no," but it was my strong intention to vote "aye" on this amendment.

GENERAL OF GENOCIDE—
MAHMOUD AHMADENIJAD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, "genocide" is a fancy term for state-sponsored murder or extermination of a group of people. And that is exactly what President Ahmadenijad of Iran is trying to incite against the state of Israel.

The president of Iran has a one-size-fits-all foreign policy. His response, Madam Speaker, to all conflicts in the Middle East is to "get rid of Israel."

Ironically, while claiming that the Holocaust never happened, Ahmadenijad regularly pontificates on goals that could easily have been taken right out of the Nazi playbook of the 1930s and 40s.

"The real cure," he has said, "for the (Lebanon) conflict is elimination of the Zionist regime."

And not only does he propose the "elimination" of the entire state of Israel, he definitively predicts that end. Israel, he said, "will be gone, definitely." And, Madam Speaker, he predicts revenge against the West for standing by its greatest ally in the Middle East, saying that we "will not see any result but the hatred of the people."

Well, it should come as no surprise to the devil of the desert, Mr. Ahmadenijad, that the United States will not leave one of its greatest allies alone in the desert. We in America have the courage, Madam Speaker, to call Ahmadenijad a threat to world peace and an outlaw to Israel.

I believe in the freedom of speech, Madam Speaker. It is one of the foundations of democracy. But speech by a head of state that urges the annihilation of an entire nation mocks and dishonors the very notion of free speech, and it is the prelude to open aggression.

And that is why I have cosponsored this resolution calling on the U.N. Security Council to charge Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadenijad with violating the 1948 Genocide Convention. He must be held accountable for his actions.

That's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO SANTA ROSA,
CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to share with my

colleagues the recent selection of Santa Rosa, California, the largest city in my district, as a 2007 All-America City. The honor was recently bestowed upon Santa Rosa by the National Civic League, and is considered to be the most prestigious community recognition competition in the United States today. Santa Rosa was honored for its exemplary community vision, collaborative problem-solving and the ability to meet local challenges. I have represented Santa Rosa for the past 14 years and these characteristics are just the beginning.

In order to win this prestigious award, a broad and diverse delegation of Santa Rosa public officials and business and community leaders represented Santa Rosa against 20 other community finalists from across the country. The delegation presented not only their innovative programs, but the local solutions they have implemented, before to a jury of their peers from across the United States. The delegation from Santa Rosa included the following members of the community:

Bob Blanchard, Mayor, City of Santa Rosa; Jane Bender, Councilmember, City of Santa Rosa; Jeff Kolin, City Manager, City of Santa Rosa; Michael Frank, Assistant City Manager/Administrative Services, City of Santa Rosa; Patricia Fruht, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Santa Rosa; Mark Ihde, Retired Sonoma County Sheriff & President and CEO of Goodwill Industries—Redwood Empire; Rhuenette Alums, Area Director, AT&T; Roberta Atha, Administrative Technician, City of Santa Rosa; Neil Brady, Senior Maintenance Worker, City of Santa Rosa; Judy Daugherty, Risk Management Analyst, City of Santa Rosa; Michael Friedenberg, President, Arts Council of Sonoma County; Jesse Guerrero, Artstart Apprentice; Vince Harper, Director, Youth & Neighborhood Services, Community Action Partnership; Mo McElroy, Director, Santa Rosa Convention & Visitors Bureau; Juan Meza, After-School Program Participant; Ernesto Olivares, Police Lieutenant and Manager, Gang Prevention & Intervention Services, City of Santa Rosa; Rosie Rojas, After-School Program Participant; Crystal Tsutsui, After-School Programs Volunteer/Chaperone; Mario Uribe, Creative Director, Artstart; Steve Velasquez, Program Director, Hope Works Santa Rosa; Patricia Wilburn, Production Specialist, Community Media Center Chandra Woodworth, Artstart Apprentice; Donna Zapata, Operations Manager, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

During their presentation the delegation was able to share the achievements of three Santa Rosa's programs that serve as outstanding examples of public-private partnership to solve address community concerns:

SANTA ROSA DOWNTOWN ARTS PROGRAM

The Santa Rosa Downtown Arts Program brings a wide range of arts and cultural programming into the downtown area to strengthen the community's image and sense of place, increase cultural unity and stimulate economic development. The program creates an arts hub that draws people downtown to live, work, and play, which encourages development and increases downtown business. The Downtown Arts Program has a three-prong approach: (1) Physical Environment—Artists design sculptures, informational kiosks, benches, light poles and news racks. Art facilities, studios, galleries, and exhibition spaces are a priority. (2) Cultural Programming includes diverse

music, dance, theater, film, and literary arts. (3) Sustainable Resources—Leadership and funding from public and private sector guarantee the program's strength and growth.

MEASURE O PUBLIC SAFETY QUARTER-CENT SALES TAX
MEASURE

A quarter-cent public safety sales tax measure was placed on the November 2004 ballot, which came to be known as Measure O. The measure generates approximately \$7 million per year for Police, Fire, and Gang Prevention and Intervention efforts. The ordinance set up a citizen oversight committee and has strict rules preventing any "supplanting" of existing services or funding in the General Fund. This project has allowed significant progress to be made in vital areas at a time when core public safety was threatened.

MAYOR'S GANG PREVENTION TASK FORCE

Four years ago, the city of Santa Rosa took aggressive steps to address the rise of local gangs. The city began with a public outreach campaign to educate the community on the growing threat, and followed that up with trips to other cities where staff and policy leaders were able to learn from their programs. In addition, the Mayor became actively involved by establishing the Gang Prevention Task Force in order to confront the issues and the risk to youth. The Task Force consists of policy leaders from throughout Sonoma County, school officials, law enforcement and officials from non-profit and social service organizations. In addition the move was not a drain on existing public resources, and was primarily funded by a quarter-cent sales tax measure that dedicates 20 percent to gang prevention and intervention measures.

While the Santa Rosa delegation brought home the top honors, every member of the delegation was able to learn from the other finalists. As a result they have returned to Santa Rosa, not only energized, but armed with fresh ideas to improve their community. I am very proud of their achievement, Madam Speaker, and invite all of my colleagues to visit this lovely community in the Sonoma County wine country just north of San Francisco.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
MICHAEL BECHERT

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Indiana's native sons who served his country honorably in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I was deeply saddened to learn that Staff Sergeant Michael Bechert of New Castle had succumbed to wounds he suffered in Baghdad last month when his vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device.

Staff Sergeant Bechert served in the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Division, 1st Infantry Division since 2001. He received numerous meritorious citations during 2 enlistments and 6 years in the Army, all stationed in Germany where he lived with his wife and young son. He was serving his second tour in Iraq.

The infantry is the oldest of the combat arms. From the dawn of time, wars have been predominantly fought by men on foot. Staff Sergeant Bechert continued that proud tradi-

tion as an expert soldier who had mastered the skills of an infantryman and served bravely in combat.

Staff Sergeant Bechert was the recipient of the Expert Infantryman Badge and Combat Infantryman Badge, highly regarded decorations in the U.S. Army that certify his elite skills and service to his country in combat. His other medals include an Army Commendation Medal for heroism and a Purple Heart for a previous injury. He will be awarded posthumously with a Bronze Star and a second Purple Heart because he died in the line of duty.

We all owe a debt that can never be repaid to Staff Sergeant Bechert's family and friends for the tragic loss of husband, father, son, friend, citizen, soldier and hero.

Madam Speaker, I wish to express my profound sadness to the community at the loss of this talented young Hoosier who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve and protect these United States. Let us remember Staff Sergeant Bechert, his family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE
RIGHT REVEREND PHILIP
AQUILLA BROOKS II

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I respectfully submit the following resolution, this 18th Day of June, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II has rendered a lifetime of devoted service to his ministry in Detroit, Michigan. He is the founding Pastor of New St. Paul Tabernacle Church of God in Christ in Detroit, Michigan, where he has served for over 54 years. Since 1975, Bishop Brooks has been the presiding prelate of the Historic First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Michigan, which is also known as the Northeast Michigan Jurisdiction. In 1984, and each quadrennial since, the Lord has honored Bishop Brooks' dedication and loyalty to His work through the favor of men, by elevating him to the presidium of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., and the largest African-American Pentecostal Denomination with an estimated 6.5 million members in over 59 countries. He now serves the Church as the Second Assistant Presiding Bishop;

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II is an individual with great vision and focus. Bishop Brooks established the March of Faith Telecast and Radio Ministry, which has ministered to countless millions across the nation in their homes, hospital rooms and behind prison bars for nearly three consecutive decades. Always the innovator, Bishop Brooks was the first among his peers on the General Board to establish a presence for his local church and Jurisdiction on the World Wide Web. He was among the first to broadcast his Sunday morning worship services via the Internet in a live Web cast every Sunday morning;

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II compassion for all of God's children has caused him to expand his local church ministry into the areas of education, senior housing, food programs and other community out-

reach programs. He is the founder of the Grandmont-Rosedale Christian School and Day Care. He is the president of the New St. Paul Non-Profit Housing Corporation. This is a Community Development Corporation responsible for the building of Faith Manor Senior Citizens Apartments on the campus of New St. Paul Tabernacle. Under Bishop Brooks' visionary leadership, New St. Paul Tabernacle distributes hundreds of Thanksgiving baskets to needy families each year, offers tutorial services to students, and provides business incubator programs to foster entrepreneurship;

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II is the third-longest serving Church of God in Christ bishop in the 93-year history of the church's influence in the State of Michigan, and is the senior Bishop in the mid-west region, including Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Ontario, Canada. He was consecrated Jurisdictional Prelate of Northeast Michigan Jurisdiction in 1975 by the late Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr. During his tenure, Bishop Brooks' programs and initiatives have benefited all citizens of the State of Michigan. His latest contribution is the formation of the first black-owned Mortgage Company in the Church of God in Christ—Faith Community Mortgage LLC;

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II established the nation's first Blue Cross/Blue Shield Program for local pastors, life insurance for local pastors and a Compensation Program for widows of local pastors. He lead the Jurisdiction in purchasing and renovating Northeast Michigan's jurisdictional headquarters, Cathedral Conference Center. He is directly or indirectly responsible for purchasing, financing, renovating, or building new churches for over 50 pastors within the jurisdiction;

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II has served for almost a quarter of a century, as a member of the Presidium of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. First elected in 1984, Bishop Brooks is now serving in his sixth term. In addition to these duties, Bishop Brooks served for 12 years as a member of the board of directors of First Independence Bank; and serves on the board of directors for the famed Museum of African American History based in Detroit, Michigan;

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II was inducted into the International Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum as a result of his contributions to the field of music in years past as a musician, and Music Department President, and presently, a worshiper; and

Whereas, Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II, on April 11, 2007, was elevated to the Office of Second Assistant Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. by Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.

Whereas, we the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus extend our sincere appreciation and highest respect to Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II and the entire COGIC Denomination.

Therefore, be it resolved, that we celebrate and honor the elevation of Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II for his lifetime of devotion, dedication, dignity and honor; his faithful service to all human beings, and for being a worldwide spiritual leader, especially within the Church of God in Christ.

Be it finally resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Bishop Philip Aquilla Brooks II, the family and that a copy be placed in the records of the Church.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF CAROL DUMAINE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of Mr. David Williams of Arlington, Virginia and a proud member of our civil service. Mr. Williams revamped outreach efforts for the Earned Income Tax Credit, helping hundreds of thousands of additional Americans receive vital benefits, and oversaw the Telephone Excise Tax Refund—the largest one-time tax refund in history.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is widely recognized as our Federal government's most effective anti-poverty program. Despite the program's overall success, studies revealed an erroneous payment rate of roughly 25 percent, and millions of eligible workers were not claiming the credit. David Williams, who heads the EITC office at the Internal Revenue Service, led the effort to revamp the program. Thanks to his leadership, as many as 500,000 more people each year are receiving vital benefits.

Today, under Mr. Williams' leadership, the IRS works with more than 150 nonprofit and community-based organizations to host EITC awareness events in more than 50 cities, creating volunteer tax assistance sites at banks, businesses and community centers. He also used news conferences and local media to help drive people to seek out this assistance.

In just 1 year, more than 2 million tax returns were prepared at these volunteer tax assistance sites. The tax credits low-income working Americans receive help them cover the essential costs they face every day—from child care to fixing the car. One person who attended a workshop reported that the tax credit helped her go from being an apartment renter to a homeowner. Since David Williams launched these new outreach efforts, the number of eligible taxpayers receiving the credit has increased by 500,000 people a year, and last year, more than 22 million people received \$41 billion in EITC payments.

As a senior official at the IRS, it would be easy to think of David Williams as a numbers guy. But his people skills, strategic approach and ability to lead diverse groups to achieve shared public policy goals have distinguished him as one of our government's most outstanding employees and have helped him positively affect the lives of millions of Americans.

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Williams for his leadership, and I am proud to have him live in Virginia's 8th Congressional District as he contributes to the greatest civil service in the world. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" CLIFTON FRANCE, FORMER PRESIDENT, CEO AND CHAIRMAN OF NASCAR

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce a resolution honoring the esteemed former President, CEO, and Chairman of NASCAR, William "Bill" Clifton France, Jr. Sadly, Bill France passed away June 4 after an extended illness. Bill was well known in Florida, leading NASCAR for 31 years before retiring in 2003. He was, like his father, "Big Bill," a giant in the racing world. He was also a super citizen whose interests and influence went well beyond the racing world. Bill lived life to the fullest and will be remembered with both admiration and fondness.

Today, the Daytona International Speedway is a landmark in the international motorsports community. However, when the France family settled in Daytona Beach, Florida, in 1934, the track was nothing but packed sand. Bill's father, William H.G. France, was known for his innovative perspectives and entrepreneurial skills in building the legacy that is the Daytona International Speedway. Bill Jr. took the same business savvy his father exhibited, and made NASCAR the legend it is today.

As President, CEO, and Chairman of NASCAR, Bill France transformed the International Speedway Corporation (ISC) into the third ranked professional sports entity on television. His leadership led the ISC to promote more than 100 annual racing events, own and/or operate thirteen of the Nation's major motorsports entertainment facilities, and own and operate MRN Radio, the Nation's largest independent sports radio network. In addition to his business achievements, the philanthropic initiative of Bill France and the France family founded the NASCAR Foundation Family of Charities, a group of more than 30 organizations that supports children's programs, animal welfare and conservation.

I know his wife, Betty Jane, and his children Brian and Lesa and their children, will miss him terribly. I know, also, that they are proud of the contributions Bill made to make motorsports not only a successful venture in Florida, but around the world. I am proud to pay tribute to Bill France, his numerous accomplishments, and his dedication to the Florida community and the motorsports industry.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES C. HALL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Brigadier General James C. Hall, Colorado National Guard (Retired).

James C. Hall was born into a coal mining family with 10 children in Wilksburg, Pennsylvania on April 14, 1926. He is the youngest son and followed in the footsteps of five of his older brothers when he joined the Army during World War II at age 17. He served as an air-

borne radio operator and later a flight engineer throughout his service in the Pacific theater. After returning from World War II, Mr. Hall reenlisted in the Army Air Corps and was awarded a direct commission into the new United States Air Force. Mr. Hall received his Bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico and is a graduate of the Army Parachute School at Fort Benning, GA, the Advanced School at Fort Bragg, NC, and U.S. Forest Service Smoke Jumper's School.

Throughout 36 years of military service and the rest of his civilian life, he became a pioneer in parachuting. Mr. Hall is a Master Parachutist with more than 1800 jumps. He started the parachuting program at the United States Air Force Academy which is the safest program of all similar service schools. In 1959 Mr. Hall and a partner organized the first professional parachuting firm in the world which led to many innovative advances in its field. His hit television show "Ripcord" has been noted as starting the modern conception of parachuting as a sport. He pioneered the "Buddy System" for free falling and the "4-line-cut" for emergencies in parachuting. Mr. Hall has been honored and cited numerous times. He has received such accolades as the AFA Medal of Merit, the Citation of Honor for his MIA/POW program, the Exceptional Service Plaque, the AFA Presidential citation, the Colorado Man of the Year, Leo Stevens Parachute medal, and the Colorado Meritorious Service Medal. As a founding member of Colorado's Wright Brothers Memorial foundation, he was inducted into the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame in 1985.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Brigadier General James C. Hall. I thank him for his honorable service to our country.

NICS IMPROVEMENT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate for the House to approve this bill in the form that it comes before us today.

As I said at the time, I do not think additional federal legislation dealing with firearms can prevent tragedies such as the killings at Virginia Tech. However, the changes this bill would make would improve the current federal law and are worth making.

The bill will create incentives for states to submit to the National Instant Background Check System (NICS) legal records about individuals who are ineligible to obtain firearms. This closes a loophole in the current background check system. In addition, and importantly, it will require states and federal agencies to allow individuals to appeal their status if they are currently considered ineligible to acquire firearms. And it will bar agencies from sharing mental health records that are irrelevant to the background check system.

The bill has been significantly revised since its introduction. As it comes before the House, it would prevent use of federal "adjudications" based on medical diagnoses without a finding of dangerousness or mental incapacity. To understand what this means, consider the fact that the NICS currently accepts Veterans' Administration decisions that a veteran or other

patient is an “adjudicated mentally defective” where there was no “adjudication” at all—only a medical diagnosis agreed to as a condition of receiving disability benefits. Veterans have a financial incentive to agree to this determination, and may have done so without expecting to lose their legal rights to acquire firearms.

The bill as revised would eliminate purely medical records from NICS and allow a person to be prohibited on medical grounds from acquiring a firearm only as a result of a specific finding that he or she is a danger to himself or herself or to other people, or lacks the capacity to manage his or her own affairs. In addition, the revised bill would require all federal agencies that impose mental health adju-

dications or commitments (such as the VA) to provide a process for “relief from disabilities.” That would be a de novo judicial review when an agency denies relief—that is, the court would look at the application on its merits, rather than deferring to the agency’s earlier decision.

Also, under the revised bill a person who is inappropriately committed or declared incompetent by a federal agency would have an opportunity to correct the error—either through the agency, or in court. And the bill would prevent reporting of mental adjudications or commitments by federal agencies when those adjudications or commitments have been removed.

The substitute would also make clear that if a federal adjudication or commitment has expired or been removed, it would no longer bar a person from possessing or receiving firearms under the Gun Control Act. This actually restores the person’s rights, as well as deleting the record from NICS. And States that receive federal funding would also be required to have a program to provide similar relief from erroneous mental adjudications and commitments. And the relief granted by such a state program would remove the federal prohibition on the person possessing or receiving a firearm under the Gun Control Act.

I think these changes are appropriate and an improvement over current law.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 20

9:30 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider original bills entitled, "The Higher Education Access Reconciliation Act", "The Higher Education Amendments of 2007", and the nominations of Jerome F. Kever, of Illinois, Michael Schwartz, of Illinois, and Virgil M. Speakman, Jr., of Ohio, all to be Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, Marylyn Andrea Howe, of Massachusetts, and Lonnie C. Moore, of Kansas, both to be Members of the National Council on Disability, and Kerri Layne Briggs, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

SD-628

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of William R. Brownfield, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia, Peter Michael McKinley, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Peru, and Patrick Dennis Duddy, of Maine, to be Ambassador to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

SD-419

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine rising crime in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

SD-226

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine S. 1285, to reform the financing of Senate elections.

SR-301

Environment and Public Works

Superfund and Environmental Health Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's response to 9-11, focusing on lessons learned for future emergency preparedness.

SD-406

2 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Hope VI Program.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine foreign aviation repair stations.

SR-253

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending judicial nominations.

SD-226

3 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Anne Woods Patterson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Nancy J. Powell, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to Nepal, Joseph Adam Ereli, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Richard Boyce Norland, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Stephen A. Seche, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen.

SD-419

JUNE 21

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine a strategic assessment of United States and Russia relations.

SD-419

Indian Affairs

To continue oversight hearings to examine law enforcement in Indian Country.

SR-485

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine working towards ending homelessness, focusing on the reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Public Law 100-77).

SD-538

Budget

To hold hearings to examine health care and the budget, focusing on issues and challenges for reform.

SD-608

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine telephone number porting and caller-ID spoofing.

SR-253

Environment and Public Works

To continue hearings to examine the case for the California waiver, including an update from the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

Finance

To hold hearings to examine barriers to work to be overcome for individuals receiving Social Security Disability Benefits.

SD-215

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1145, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform, S. Res. 230, designating the month of July 2007, as "National Teen Safe Driver Month", S. Res. 231, recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and expressing the sense of the Senate that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future, and the nomination of Leslie Southwick, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, and possible authorization of subpoenas in connection with the inves-

tigation of the legal basis for the warrantless wiretap program.

SD-226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, focusing on the implications for United States human rights leadership.

2325RHOB

11 a.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine America's aging farming population, focusing on the threat to the future of American agriculture as aging farmers are not being replaced by younger generations.

SR-325

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the state of public-private collaboration in preparing for and responding to national catastrophes.

SD-342

Appropriations

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, and Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

SD-106

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John L. Withers II, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Albania, Charles Lewis English, of New York, to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameron Munter, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, Roderick W. Moore, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Montenegro, and J. Christian Kennedy, of Indiana, to be Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues.

SD-419

Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine energy efficiency technologies and programs.

SR-253

3:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JUNE 22

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine a new vision for medical research relating to the fiscal year 2008 budget for the National Institutes of Health.

SD-116

JUNE 25

11 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine excessive speculation in the natural gas market.
SD-106

JUNE 26

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the impact of media violence on children.
SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the preparedness of the federal land management agencies for the 2007 wildfire season and efforts to contain the costs of wildfire management activities.
SD-366

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of William W. Mercer, of Montana, to be Associate Attorney General.
SD-226

Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine Smithsonian Institution governance reform, focusing on a report by the Smithsonian's Independent Review Committee.
SR-301

JUNE 27

9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
Constitution Subcommittee
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the federal death penalty.
SD-226

Veterans' Affairs
Business meeting to markup pending legislation; to be immediately followed by a full committee hearing to examine the nomination of Charles L. Hopkins, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Operations, Preparedness, Security and Law Enforcement).
SD-562

10:30 a.m.
Aging
To hold hearings to examine the relationship between doctors and the drug industry.
SD-106

JUNE 28

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
SR-253

JULY 9

2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To continue hearings to examine excessive speculation in the natural gas market.
SD-342

JULY 11

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Veterans Affairs health care funding.
SD-562

10 a.m.
Judiciary
To continue hearings to examine the Department of Justice politicizing the hiring and firing of United States Attorneys, focusing on preserving prosecutorial independence (Part VI).
SD-226

JULY 18

10 a.m.
Judiciary
To continue oversight hearings to examine the Department of Justice.
SH-216

JULY 25

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense education issues.
SD-562